the elector's name, father's/mother's name, sex, age as on 1st January of the year of issue of the card and residential address as recorded in the electoral roll. The identity of the elector is established on physical production of the card. No other electronic device is necessary to establish the identity;

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) According to the Election Commission of India, the issuance of identity cards is a continuous programme and has not been stopped.

(e) The total provisional payment released by the Central Government to the States, so far, for issue of electors' photo-identity cards is Rs. 4,29,45,61,710/-.

(f) Does not arise.

Annual vacation and working days in courts

3036. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of working days in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the High Courts and the State Governments to re-examine annual vacation and working days in High Courts and Subordinate Courts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Justice of India rejected the proposal of Government for reviewing the working days of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) According to the available information, the Supreme Court of India works for 222 days in a year. Most of the High Courts in the country have 210 working days in a year, and the number of working days of the Subordinate Courts are regulated by the concerned High Courts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Department of Justice had invited the views of the High Courts and the State Governments in July 2001 regarding the number of working days in the High Courts and the curtailment of their vacations. Replies have since been received from 11 High Courts and 6 State Governments. The High Court of Uttaranchal has increased the number of its working days in a year from 210 to 224 and the High Court of Karnataka from 210 to 214; High Court of Jharkhand has no objection if any decision is taken at appropriate level to increase the number of working days; other High Courts have not favoured any increase in the number of their working days. Of the six State Governments which have so far responded, the Mizoram Government has supported the present level of atleast 210 working days per year for the High Court; the Government of Maharashtra, Goa and Rajasthan have favoured increase in the number of annual working days of their respective High Courts; the Government of Meghalaya has no objection to the increase in the number of the working days in the High Court and the Government of Punjab has supported the view of the Punjab and Haryana High Court that it is not necessary to curtail the vacations.

Setting-up of permanent Benches of Supreme Court

3037. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Bar Associations, other bodies and Members of Parliament have requested Government to provide equal opportunities to all in operation of our legal system and set-up permanent Benches of Supreme Court in Southern, Western and North-Eastern Parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) the reasons for not setting up Benches of Supreme Court outside Delhi in the interest of litigants and to provide them cheap justice?